

golden prize—the House wanted 10 years and the Senate had 4 years; the House wanted the compromise on 7, halfway between; we said no, we are not going to do that. This was a matter of great importance to many Senators, especially to Senator CRAIG. So we can review all of this and we can have oversight. I almost thought if we got 4 years, we would get Senator CRAIG. He is nodding in the negative.

Mr. CRAIG. It was third on my list.

Mr. SPECTER. We did not get Senator CRAIG.

Mr. President, when the six Senators wrote a letter with a lot of concerns, we responded with a seven-page letter. When yesterday we received a letter with nine Senators, we responded with an eight-page letter which the staff has worked on. We have had extraordinary staff working on all sides. This goes for my staff, this goes for Senator LEAHY's staff. The Judiciary Committee has not had any time off. We had an August recess for the Senate but not for the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator is expired.

Mr. SPECTER. In that event, I stop.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:47 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. THOMAS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time from 2:15 until 3:30 shall be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BAUCUS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2107 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I thank the Senators from Oklahoma and Idaho for their courtesy. There were three of us scheduled to speak at the same time. Obviously, that is very difficult to do. These two Senators graciously allowed me to go ahead. I thank them both.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to spend a few minutes of my time talking about the Labor-HHS bill and a lot of the comments we have heard in the Chamber over the last couple days as to what we are and are not doing. I thought the American public should have a good perspective about what has happened in terms of the growth of this department since the fiscal year 1998 started.

This is a tight budget. I commend those who are in charge of it. It is a

vast improvement over what we have done in other years. There is no question there are some unmet needs that can be claimed out of this appropriations bill. That is the time we face in our country. The Federal Government cannot meet every need.

In regard to history, Health and Human Services from 1998 to 2005, over that 8-year period, in real dollars has increased at over 10 percent per year. It has actually increased over 13 percent per year, but we have had inflation of 3 percent. So what we have seen is an actual doubling of the size of that component of the Federal Government from September 30 of 1997 to today. It has doubled in size. Education is the same. Actually, education more than doubled in size, net of inflation. That is in terms of real dollars. So when we hear the words that we can't do what we are doing, I would have our fellow colleagues look down the road a little bit. This is just a taste of what we are going to be facing if we don't start making the choices based on priority.

I tell you, we are on an unsustainable path even with this bill. We cannot meet those needs that need to be met if we continue to not prioritize in the functioning of the Federal Government.

Again, I take seriously the claim that we would take away food stamps from people who have no other source of nutrition. But I also take seriously the claim and the knowledge reported by the Department of Agriculture and the Food Stamp Program that last year they paid out \$1.6 billion in food stamps to people who were ineligible, who had other sources of income. And yet they continued to spend \$1.6 billion.

Why is all this important? It is important because this last year, ending September 30, we spent \$538 billion more in that fiscal year than we took in. So the debate has to be in the context of what are we doing to our children and our grandchildren. We have to make a measured balance about how we make these decisions.

The decision of trimming programs that are not effective and doing the hard oversight—the real thing that is lacking is us doing the work of oversight. We have opportunities lost when we don't put money into those programs that are more effective and take money from those programs that are less effective.

The debate is centered about us and our constitutional duties to do oversight but also in terms of the future and what kind of heritage and legacy in terms of debt are we going to leave to our children.

Overall, the Congress has done a good job with this bill. There are still tons of waste in this bill. This bill totaled has \$602 billion worth of spending in it.

I have one last comment, and that is there is \$55 billion for the new Medicare Part D Program, of which only 1 out of every 15 people who are eligible for that program is a new person who

would not have had drugs. So we are going to pay for 14 people who had insurance or other coverage to cover one additional person. And none of that money is paid for. That \$55 billion is coming from our grandchildren.

This is a program on which I did not have an opportunity to vote. I would have voted against it. I also didn't have an opportunity to attach it to a supplemental, which I would have offered, to eliminate or freeze this program because our children and our grandchildren absolutely cannot afford it. It is \$8.7 trillion between now and 2050 that we are going to put into this brandnew program that is starting today that helps 1 in 15. It helps 1 in 15 who need it. And yet we are saying it is OK for our children to pay that bill.

I commend Senator SPECTER on his hard work on the bill. This is the first time in years that the hard choices have been made. I remind our colleagues that as we face the future with Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and a war and natural disasters, hard choices is what we are here for. Yes, as Senator KENNEDY said today, we do need to be concerned about those who can't take care of themselves, but I put forward to my colleagues that with \$600 billion—that is \$20,000 per man, woman, and child in this country—we ought to be able to take care of them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CRAPO and Mr. THOMAS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2110 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

#### SPENDING CUTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have traveled throughout my home State of Washington throughout the past month. A lot of people have told me time and time again they want our country to be strong again, and to be strong we need to invest right here at home, in our people, in our infrastructure, and in our communities. But today the Republican leadership is trying to push us in the wrong direction by cutting those critical investments. Republicans today are attempting to interpose an across-the-board spending cut that will hurt our families, it will hurt our local communities, and it will even jeopardize the housing and safety of the American people.

I am speaking out today to explain how those misguided cuts will affect housing for vulnerable families and the safety of every American who plans to fly this holiday season.

I thank Senator BYRD for his tremendous leadership and his speaking out about this misguided Republican plan.